

MICHAEL BLUMKIN, FLORIDA
 JOE BARTON, TEXAS
 FRED LUTTEN, MICHIGAN
 CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
 PAUL E. GALLAGHER, OHIO
 JAMES C. GREENWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTOPHER COX, CALIFORNIA
 NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
 RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA
 ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
 GREG GANZLE, IOWA
 CHARLIE NORWOOD, GEORGIA
 BARBARA CUBIN, WYOMING
 JOHN SHIMMUS, ILLINOIS
 HEATHER WILSON, NEW MEXICO
 JOHN B. SHADDEG, ARIZONA
 CHARLES "CHIT" F. CLEGG, MISSISSIPPI
 VITO ROSSELLA, NEW YORK
 ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
 TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA
 ED BRYANT, TENNESSEE
 ROBERT L. SHULCH, JR., MARYLAND
 STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
 GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
 CHARLES F. BASS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
 MARY BOND, CALIFORNIA
 GREG WALDEN, OREGON
 LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
 ERNIE FLETCHER, KENTUCKY

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN, LOUISIANA,
 CHAIRMAN

June 4, 2002

ORIGINAL

JOHN D. DUNCAN, MICHIGAN
 HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
 EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
 RALPH M. PALLONE, TEXAS
 RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
 EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
 MARK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
 SHERAGG BROWN, OHIO
 BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
 PETER DELUTCH, FLORIDA
 BOBBY L. BUSH, ALABAMA
 ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
 BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
 EUSTACE L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
 TOM SAWYER, OHIO
 ALBERT R. WYNN, MARYLAND
 GENE GREEN, TEXAS
 KAREN MCCARTHY, MISSOURI
 TED STRICKLAND, OHIO
 DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO
 THOMAS M. BAURETT, WISCONSIN
 BILL LUTHER MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
 JOE CARRS, CALIFORNIA
 MICHAEL J. DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
 CHRISTOPHER JOHN, LOUISIANA
 JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA

DAVID V. MARVEN, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
 Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

FEB - 5 2003

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

MB
Relationship
PR
MKP
1881

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing about the Federal Communication Commission's (the "Commission") rule which prohibits the common ownership of a broadcast station and a daily newspaper in **the same market**, otherwise known as the "newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule" (the "rule"). For the reasons indicated below, we support repeal of the rule, and we **urge** the Commission to expeditiously complete the rulemaking process it initiated in this matter last September.

Without a doubt, there **have been dramatic** changes in the media marketplace since **1975** when the rule was adopted by the Commission. As noted in the Commission's Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking *last September*, when the rule was first adopted, there were **7,785** radio stations, **952** television stations, three major broadcast **networks** (ABC, CBS, and NBC), cable television systems served 13 per cent of television households, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers **were** nonexistent, and the Internet was not commercially available.

Today, there are approximately 12,900 radio stations, 1,600 full power television stations, **2,390** low power television stations, and 230 Class **A** television stations. There are **now four** major broadcast **networks** (ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox), along with other emerging broadcast networks (e.g., UPN and WB). Today, cable television systems serve approximately 70 per cent of television households (with over 200 video programming services available on such systems, including significant news programming). Today, DBS is serving approximately 15 per cent of multichannel video programming distribution (MVPD) households. Moreover, today, the Internet also has become a significant source of local and national news for many Americans.

No. of Copies rec'd 2
 Lit ABCDE

We believe this explosion of media sources should eliminate any concern regarding a lack of diversity of views in the marketplace and competition, which have been the principal justifications for the rule. Since initiating its rulemaking process last September, numerous broadcasters, trade associations, and public interest groups, along with more than 1400 individuals, have filed comments and reply comments in the proceeding. We would note that the vast majority of commenters advocate repeal of the rule.

In light of the foregoing, we believe repeal of the rule is long overdue, and we urge the Commission to complete its rulemaking as expeditiously as possible. We thank you for your attention to our views in this regard and look forward to your response detailing the Commission's progress on this front.

Sincerely,



W.J. "Billy" Tauzin

Chairman

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Fred Upton

Chairman

Subcommittee on Telecommunications

and the Internet